

<p>LANCASHIRE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE</p>	<p>POST-MEDIEVAL ENCLOSURE</p>
<p>Definition:</p>	
<p>This type comprises a variety of field forms, size tends to be medium (4 to 16 hectares) but with a significant percentage of small enclosures. Two thirds of the type has an irregular layout while the remainder has a more planned pattern. This is a reflection of the piecemeal private enclosure of land in Lancashire in the period between AD 1600 – 1850 rather than the widespread planned enclosure much more prevalent in other parts of England such as the Midlands. This type may include land which was previously enclosed and later re-modelled as well as that associated with the agricultural exploitation of new areas that marked the agricultural ‘revolution’ of the 17th to early 19th centuries.</p>	
<p>Typical historical and archaeological components</p>	
<p>As with Ancient Enclosure the typical historical and archaeological components of the Post-Medieval Enclosure type are the boundaries which define the fields, the ditches used to drain them, the roads and tracks which traverse them and the buildings of those living and working within the area. Boundaries include water-filled ditches, quickset hedges, stone walls and fences.</p> <p>Attributes of the former mossland areas include drainage ditches, causeways, windmills and bridges. There is a possibility of well-preserved archaeological deposits existing under the ground surface where the Post-Medieval Enclosure type covers peaty or former wetland soils.</p> <p>Some of the main ditches are potentially related to an earlier enclosure period, being left in place as they were too large to contemplate changing and because they functioned effectively.</p>	
<p>Enhancing and safeguarding the type</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conserve</i> the character of the Post-Medieval Enclosure type giving priority to enclosures from lowland moss and upland moor. The type is broadly characterised by three processes of agricultural improvement: the drainage and enclosure of the mosslands of West Lancashire and the Fylde, the enclosure of upland moor on Bowland and the South Pennines and the more general improvement and reorganisation of much of the earlier ancient landscape. Whilst the latter is important it is the former two processes that provide the most significant contribution of the period to the landscape character of the county – consequently, it is the attributes and timedepth provided by these that should be afforded the greatest priority for conservation and enhancement. In addition, opportunities should be sought for the enhancement and interpretation of post-medieval reclaimed landscapes. 	